

FACT SHEET: President Trump's Muslim Ban has caused chaos and made our country less safe

- *President Trump's hasty and irresponsible executive order caused confusion and chaos across the country.*
- *The order will hurt our economy, threatens our national security, and makes Americans less safe.*
- *President Trump's order is unconstitutional and his attacks on independent jurists are dangerous.*

Background: Trump's Executive Order made a series of changes to our refugee system, which included halting worldwide refugee entry into the United States for 4 months, suspending refugee admissions from Syria indefinitely, and dramatically cutting back our refugee admissions ceiling. The directive at the center of ongoing litigation – the travel ban – barred visitors from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Libya, and Yemen. President Trump imposed the ban on these seven Muslim-majority countries “of particular concern” in the name of protecting our nation from “terrorist entry,” citing to the 9/11 attacks.

On February 3rd a federal judge in Seattle issued a nationwide order blocking the travel ban, reinstating the U.S. Refugee Admissions program, and allowing Syrian refugee admissions. On February 9th, a three-judge panel on the Ninth Circuit unanimously rejected President Trump's appeal to reinstate the travel ban. The court said that the administration had shown “no evidence” that anyone from the countries named in the order had committed a terrorist attack in the U.S. [Executive Order, [1/27/17](#); New York Times, [2/9/17](#)]

President Trump's hasty and irresponsible executive order caused confusion and chaos across the country.

This political executive order was sent out without the consultation of key national security and legal advisors.

- Department of Homeland Security Secretary John F. Kelly received his first full briefing on the executive order when President Trump signed it. **Kelly later told the House Committee on Homeland Security that he “should have delayed it just a bit so that I could talk to members of Congress, particularly to the leadership of committees like this, to prepare them for what was coming.”** [New York Times, [1/29/17](#); New York Times, [2/7/17](#)]
- In a breach of long-standing agency practice, **the Department of Homeland Security did not conduct a legal review of the order until after it was finalized** and the Administration did not follow the standard agency review process typically overseen by the National Security Council. [CNN, [1/30/17](#)]
- **Moreover, the Justice Department had “no comment” on whether its Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) – traditionally responsible for assessing**

the legality of the President's actions – actually reviewed President Trump's executive order. This raises the alarming possibility that the OLC failed to analyze the legality of President Trump's order, breaking with decades of precedent under administrations of both parties. [NPR, [1/27/17](#)]

Rushed vetting and lack of coordination in the Trump Administration led to chaos.

- According to the State Department, **90,000 people have been affected by the travel suspension** – these include students, businesspersons and tourists who had already been approved for nonimmigrant or immigrant visas. [Washington Post, [1/30/17](#)]
- **This travel ban even prevented military translators from reuniting with their families in the U.S.** These men and women – who put their lives on the line serving alongside American forces in Iraq and Afghanistan – have undergone extreme vetting already. [New York Times, [1/28/17](#)]

The order will hurt our economy, threatens our national security, and makes Americans less safe.

With a blanket ban on millions of people from visiting the United States, the executive order deprives the U.S. of potentially billions of tourism dollars. In 2013 alone, visitors from the Middle East spent \$6.7 billion dollars during their travel here. [U.S. National Travel and Tourism Office, [2013](#)]

The executive order barred foreign-born doctors from entry as well. These trained physicians provide critical medical care to communities nationwide -- especially in small towns and underserved communities.

- **42 percent of office visits in rural America are with foreign-born physicians, according to the American Academy of Family Physicians.** [New York Times, [2/6/17](#)]
- **More than 15,000 doctors in the U.S. are from the seven Muslim-majority countries covered by the travel ban.** [New York Times, [2/6/17](#)]
 - For example, **172 doctors practicing in Iowa are from the seven countries subject to President Trump's travel ban.** [Des Moines Register, [1/31/17](#)]

The executive order also impacted international students and faculty, creating great disruption for institutions of higher education. 50 higher education organizations and more than 600 college and university presidents have expressed great concerns with the order. An analysis from NAFSA, Association of International Educators, found that international students contributed \$32.8 billion and supported more than 400,000 jobs during the 2015-106 academic year. [Higher Education Associations' Letter, [1/31/17](#); Letter from College and University Presidents, [2/3/17](#); NAFSA International Student Economic Value Tool, [2016](#)]

Republicans agree – this Executive Order makes us less safe.

- **Trump's own Defense Secretary, former four-star General Mattis, has criticized the proposed ban:** When addressing then-candidate Trump's proposed Muslim ban last year, General James Mattis said, "They think we've completely lost it. This kind of thing is causing us great damage right now, and it's sending shock waves through this international system." [Politico, [7/15/16](#)]
- **Senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham:** "We fear this executive order may do more to help terrorist recruitment than improve our security." [Statement, [1/29/17](#)]
- **Former CIA Director under President George W. Bush, Gen. Michael Hayden:** "It's a horrible move. It is a political, ideological move driven by the language of the campaign and, frankly, campaign promises - promises in the campaign that were hyped (ph) by an exaggeration of the threat. And in fact, **what we're doing now has probably made us less safe today than we were Friday morning before this happened** because we are now living the worst jihadist narrative possible, that there is undying enmity between Islam and the West." [NPR Morning Edition, [1/30/17](#)]

Americans abroad or those seeking to travel abroad could face retaliation by other countries. Iraq's former ambassador to the United States warned that the ban could backfire, noting that "people will start questioning the bond of this partnership." [Reuters, [1/29/17](#)]

This ban would not have prevented previous terrorist attacks. The Trump Administration has tried to defend the ban as necessary to keep the country safe, but no one involved in the San Bernardino, Orlando, or 9/11 attacks was born in any of the countries blacklisted by President Trump's order. [Washington Post, [1/30/17](#)]

- In denying the Administration's request to reinstate the travel ban, the Ninth Circuit specifically noted that "**The Government has pointed to no evidence that any alien from any of the countries named in the Order has perpetrated a terrorist attack in the United States.**" [State of Washington v. Trump, [2/9/17](#)]
- **In fact, the list of countries included in the ban leaves out countries actually tied to extremist attackers or plots.** Since 9/11, individuals who carried out deadly attacks in the U.S. were from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Russia and Kyrgyzstan. None of these countries are included in President Trump's order, raising serious questions about its rationale and efficacy. [NPR, [1/27/17](#)]

President Trump's order is unconstitutional and his attacks on independent jurists are dangerous.

President Trump's own rhetoric indicates that the executive order was intended to ban Muslims. While the executive order does not explicitly single out Muslims, President Trump's own statements are evidence of his intent:

- A December 2015 Trump campaign press release calling for a “total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country’s representatives can figure out what is going on.” [Statement, [12/7/15](#)]
- An August 2016 speech advocating for screening out people “who believe that Sharia law should supplant American law.” [Washington Post, [8/15/16](#)]
- An interview President Trump gave last month in which he affirmed that persecuted Christians will be given priority to come into the U.S. as refugees, saying “If you were a Muslim you could come in, but if you were a Christian, it was almost impossible and the reason that was so unfair, everybody was persecuted in all fairness, but they were chopping off the heads of everybody but more so the Christians. And I thought it was very, very unfair. So we are going to help them.” [CBN News, [1/27/17](#)]

President Trump’s criticism of the judiciary undermines our Constitution and the foundational principles of this country. His pattern of attacking jurists who disagree with him shows disrespect for our independent judicial system and the separation of powers at the heart of our constitutional democracy.

- After U.S. District Judge James L. Robart temporarily blocked the travel ban, Trump took to Twitter and said that “[t]he opinion of this so-called judge . . . is ridiculous and will be overturned!” He later said the ruling “put our country in such peril. If something happens blame him and court system.” [Washington Post, [2/4/17](#); The Hill, [2/5/17](#)]
- He called the Ninth Circuit decision refusing to reinstate the travel ban “disgraceful” and described the courts as “so political.” [New York Times, [2/8/17](#)]
- During the presidential campaign, President Trump claimed that Judge Gonzalo Curiel had an “inherent conflict of interest” and could not fairly adjudicate a fraud case against Trump University because of his Mexican heritage. [CNN, [6/5/16](#)]